

2001-014-1078

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Dear General Services Administration,

Regarding FAR case 2001-014, I am writing to express my **vehement opposition** to the Bush Administration's proposal to repeal the Clinton Administration's rules on **federal contractor responsibility**. The rules require contracting officers to review a company's record of complying with laws in deciding whether the company is a "responsible contractor" eligible to receive a federal contract

A company's track record of complying with environmental protection laws should be an important factor in deciding whether the company receives a federal contract. Companies that illegally pollute our rivers and streams, fail to comply with toxic waste laws or release pollutants into our environment in violation of clean air laws shouldn't be rewarded with lucrative federal contracts. That's unfair to companies that do comply with these important laws, and allows violators to profit from their lawbreaking.

Federal contracts should go to **responsible, law-abiding companies**, not to corporate lawbreakers. I urge the FAR Council not to repeal the contractor responsibility rules, but to allow the rules to go into effect without further delay.

Corporations should not be able to violate our laws repeatedly and still receive government contracts. There are many examples of law-breaking companies that have received federal contracts. For example:

- Between 1996 and 2000, the U.S. Department of Agriculture purchased more than \$484 million worth of food from 12 companies that had committed multiple violations of either environmental laws or labor laws - or both.
- In one year, 261 federal contractors with 5,121 violations of health and safety regulations received \$38 billion in federal contracts.
- Eighty firms that violated U.S. labor laws received \$28 billion in taxpayer-financed projects.

This form of corporate welfare and unaccountability must end. Businesses are fully able to comply with existing US Labor and Environmental regulations and still turn profits. The repeal of this executive order is nothing more than an

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attempt to hamstring the fair business practices which so many law-abiding organizations comply with, and many of the current administrations industrial friends do not

The American public should have every right to determine where our tax dollars are being spent. Please do not allow them to reward organizations with track records of criminal activity in order to "make good" on republican campaign contributions.

Sincerely,



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